

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England
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February 10, 2003

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Public Information Repositories

RE: January 2003 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the January 2003 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

1. Overview

During January 2003, EPA, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc. and Weston's subcontractors continued remediation activities on the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. The primary work completed includes soil and sediment excavation and backfilling activities in Cell 6 and 6A and preparatory work for excavation in cell 7.

2. Chronological description of tasks performed

Refer to Figure 1 for an orientation of the sheetpile cells and their respective locations.

By the end of December 2002, Cell 5 excavation and backfilling was completed. During the first week of January, the downstream and upstream cutoff sheetpile walls of Cell 6 were pulled up (they had previously been installed and pushed down to the mudline) in preparation for excavation. In addition, centerline sheetpiles for Cell 6A were installed. Sumps and swales were installed within Cell 6 for dewatering purposes. Inflatable plugs 48-inches in diameter were installed in the Day Street drainage culverts to stop water from entering the excavation. Water from the Day Street swale was pumped around Cell 6 to the river. Following these preparations, Cell 6 was dewatered. Water was pumped from Cell 6 to the water treatment system.

Prior to excavation activities, the surveyors established the TSCA and non-TSCA excavation limits, depths of excavation for the Day St. drainage swale, and depths of excavation for cell 6. TSCA and non-TSCA material in cell 6 and the Day St. swale were excavated. These materials were transported to the Building 63 and 68 stockpile areas. Excavation of concrete from the Day St. swale was started. This material was placed on a pad located in the GE parking lot at Lyman Street. On 8 January 2003, water eroded the bank around the north wall of cell 6, causing the cell to flood. Additional sheet piles were installed into the bank to cut off flow around the north wall of this cell. Additional sheets were also installed at the south wall as a precaution. Water in the cell was pumped to the treatment plant.

Sheet piles were installed along the cell 6A centerline and south wall. Water above 6 inches in depth in cell 6A was pumped directly back to the river. Additional sheet pile work included removal of centerline sheet piles from completed cells (upstream of cell 6).

During the second week of January, excavation and transport of TSCA and non-TSCA material from cell 6 and the Day St. swale to the Building 63 and 68 stockpile areas was completed. Concrete from the Day St. swale was excavated and transported to the GE parking lot. Following the survey of the excavated subgrade of cell 6 and stakeout of backfill grades, backfilling operations were started in cell 6. Common fill and filter material A were placed in the river bed and at the north bank of the Day Street swale.

In cell 6A, water greater than 6 inches in depth was pumped directly back to the river. When the depth of water reached 6 inches, it was pumped to the treatment plant before discharge. In preparation for excavation, sump and swales were installed within cell 6A and the excavation

limits were staked out. Stakes with excavation cut marks were installed and the TSCA area limits were identified in cell 6A. Excavation was started in cell 6A following the initial survey work. TSCA and non-TSCA materials were excavated and transported to the Building 63 and Building 68 stockpile areas, respectively.

Other survey work completed included staking out the centerline sheeting for cell 7 and conducting the pre-excavation survey of the cell 7 river bank.

Centerline sheet piles were removed at completed upstream cells downstream to Station 503+60.

A crane pad was constructed south of the Silver Lake Outfall to allow installation of centerline sheet pile further downstream. Sheet pile was installed at the edge of the south side of the crane pad to stabilize it. Centerline sheet piles for cell 7 were installed.

During the third week of January, backfilling of cell 6 continued. Within the Day St. swale, common fill, filter material B, and riprap C3 were placed on the bank and common fill and filter material A were placed on the bed. Rip rap layer C1 was placed in the 2-foot excavation area of the Day St. swale bed. At cell 6, common fill, filter layer A, and riprap layer C3 were placed on the bank and common fill, filter layer A, and riprap layer C2 were placed on the riverbed. Following completion of cell 6 backfilling to an elevation of 975 feet, water was pumped over the sheet pile wall rather than to the treatment plant. The top of riprap was staked in cell 6 before rip rap installation and then surveyed after installation.

Excavation in cell 6A continued and non-TSCA material was hauled to Building 68. Survey work completed included verifying excavation points, setting grade stakes and surveying the riverbed topography. Excavated areas in cell 6A were surveyed and additional grade stakes installed as necessary.

Installation of the cell 7 centerline sheet pile continued. A new crane pad was constructed further downstream to allow the crane to be moved further downstream for additional sheet pile installation.

During the fourth week of January, backfilling of cell 6 was completed. Survey work completed in cell 6 included surveying the completed backfill below elevation 975 and placing final grade stakes above elevation 975. Filter materials A and B were placed on the bank above the top of rip rap at cell 6. Common fill was then placed above elevation 975 on the bank in cell 6. Sheet pile along the centerline of cell 6 and the upstream wall of cell 6 was removed following final surveys and approval of the final grades, allowing the cell to flood.

The excavation of cell 6A was completed. Excavated areas were then surveyed and grade stakes were installed at the top of bank in cell 6A. Backfilling of cell 6A was then started. Common fill, filter layer A, filter layer B, and rip rap layer C1 were placed in cell 6A.

Additional survey work performed this week included surveying the existing topography in cell 5A and setting grade stakes in cell 7.

Installation of the cell 7 centerline sheet pile continued. A sheet pile sidewall was installed into the east bank within cell 7 to reduce infiltration and the resultant loading on the treatment plant.

This wall also will allow simultaneous activities in cell 6A and 7. The downstream sheet pile wall was installed for cell 7. In preparation for upcoming excavation activities in cell 7, ice was removed from cell 7. Water above 6 inches from the riverbed in cell 7 was pumped directly to the river. Once only 6 inches of water remained in cell 7, water was pumped to the treatment plant for treatment before discharge to the river. Sumps and swales for dewatering the cell were installed to prepare for excavation.

Construction of a temporary building in the GE parking lot was started.

During the month of January, the water treatment system treated water from Cells 6 and 6A. Sampling of the water treatment system for parameters included in the NPDES exclusion permit was performed on January 20, 2003. Air monitoring for particulate matter (PM10 sampling) and surface water turbidity monitoring was performed on a daily basis. The monthly PCB air monitoring event was performed on January 23, 2003. Surface water sampling for total suspended solids (TSS) and PCBs was performed on January 9, 2003. The second sampling event was planned for January 22, 2003; however, the sampling had to be cancelled due to the river being frozen. Sampling of common fill for chemical parameters was performed on January 10, 20, and 21, 2003 and sampling for Filter Layer A for chemical parameters was performed on January 10, 2003. Wipe samples were collected from decontaminated equipment on January 15, 2003 to verify proper decontamination.

Geotechnical samples were collected for common fill and Filter Layer A. The results of the geotechnical testing are not included in the monthly reports but are contained in other submittals and are available upon request.

Stockpile management activities continued throughout the month of January. Daily inspections and operation and maintenance activities were performed within Buildings 63, 65 and 68. This included the collection of accumulated water that drained from the stockpiles, transportation of that water to the on-site water treatment system, installation of Jersey barriers along the west side of Building 65, and lining the Building 65 stockpile area with polyethylene sheeting. The ramp in Building 65 was cleaned and repaired. Traffic control was conducted on Lyman Street throughout the month.

Miscellaneous site preparation and maintenance activities performed in January included maintenance and repairs to the stockpile area trucking route and access roads, and construction of a staging area on the East side of the river between the water treatment system and the access road. Dust control procedures were implemented for access roads, parking areas, and material storage areas. Staged backfill materials were covered to prevent generation of dust.

3. Sampling/test results received

PCB sample results for the water treatment system sampling program were received for samples collected on January 20, 2003 (Table 4). Non-PCB analytical results were received for the sample collected on December 18, 2002 (Table 4a). Non-PCB analytical results for the WTS samples collected on January 20, 2003 are not available yet. Analytical results for backfill materials are summarized in Table 5. This includes the sampling results for a sample of Filter

Layer A and common fill collected on January 10. Results for common fill samples collected on January 20 and 21 are not yet available. The results of the daily particulate air monitoring program are summarized in Table 6. Table 7 is a summary of daily turbidity monitoring results. Results for PCB and TSS samples and water column monitoring data collected on January 9, 2003 are presented in Table 8. The scheduled water column sampling event for January 22 was cancelled due to frozen river conditions. Results for four PCB wipe samples for decontaminated equipment collected on January 15, 2003 are summarized in Table 9. A summary of the results for the PCB air sampling conducted on January 23, 2003 are provided in Table 10.

4. Diagrams associated with the tasks performed

Figure 1 is a map of the Phase I area, and includes layout of Cells 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, and 6A, lot parcel identification numbers, water monitoring locations, PCB air sampling locations, access road locations, fence line location, the water treatment system pad location, crane pad locations, the effluent discharge location, and the utility trench location.

5. Reports received and prepared

Vibration monitoring data was collected on January 6 only. After this date the vibration monitoring device was malfunctioning due to the extremely cold conditions. On January 13, 2003 the final sheet piles within 200 feet of the Lyman Street bridge were removed, allowing vibration monitoring to be discontinued.

6. Photo documentation of activities performed

See attached photos.

7. Brief description of work to be performed in February 2003

- Complete backfill activities in Cell 6A.
- Excavate and backfill Cell 7.
- Remove the upstream and downstream cut-off walls for Cells 6A and 7 to allow the river to flow through the south side of the river channel.
- Remove the centerline sheetpile wall located between Cells 5 and 6A.
- Install downstream cutoff wall for Cell 5A.
- Install a pump by pass for the Silver Lake outfall.

- Excavate Cell 5A.
- Install a box culvert for Silver Lake outfall extension structure.
- Begin the installation of Cells 9 and 10 centerline sheetpile wall.
- Complete tree clearing and fencing activities on parcel I8-24-1.
- Transport NAPL-impacted materials to an approved off-site disposal facility.
- Transfer TSCA materials from Building 63 to the Building 71 Landfill.
- Transfer non-TSCA materials from Building 65 and 68 to Hill 78 Landfill.
- Continue stockpile management activities at Buildings 63, 65 and 68.
- Continue operation of water treatment system.
- Continue daily air and turbidity monitoring.
- Continue PCB air sampling (once a month), water column sampling (twice a month), water treatment system sampling (monthly) and backfill material sampling (as needed).

8. Attachments to this report

Table 1. Quantity of Material Generated During the Month of January

Table 2. Quantity of Material Excavated to Date

Table 3. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs to Date

Table 4. NPDES PCB Sampling Results for Water Treatment System

Table 4a. NPDES non-PCB Sampling Results for Water Treatment System

Table 5. Backfill Material Testing Results

Table 6. Daily Air Monitoring Results

Table 7. Daily Water Column Turbidity Monitoring Results

Table 8. Summary of Turbidity, PCB, and TSS Water Column Monitoring Results

Table 9. Equipment Confirmatory Wipe Sample Results

Table 10. PCB Air Sampling Results

Table 11 Stockpile Material Characterization Test Results

Figure 1- Phase I Site Plan

Photodocumentation